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Our Case No. 11400-252  
Client Reference No. 00021-00/US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
George V. Guyan et al. )  
Serial No. 09/305,146 )  
Filing Date: May 4, 1999 )  
For: METHOD AND ARTICLE OF )  
MANUFACTURE FOR )  
COMPONENT BASED INFORMATION )  
LINKING DURING CLAIM PROCESSING )

) Examiner: S. Rimell  
) Group Art Unit: 2166

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**APR 24 2002**  
**Technology Center 2100**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 4, 2001, Applicants have timely filed this Preliminary Amendment with a Continuing Prosecution Application (CPA) and the appropriate Petition and Fee for an Extension of Time. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections and grant allowance of this Application in view of the following remarks and new claims.

Please amend this application as follows: